

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CENTRAL REFERENCE

6-117
Note: extra copy from
RC, box 2 of 2, 66-496,
OCR/OD VII, 28, DDI

7 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Biographic Intelligence

1. This action memorandum recommends (in paras. 10-13) a reallocation of responsibility for producing and disseminating certain biographic intelligence.

BACKGROUND

2. The present major medium for regularly scheduled production and dissemination of comprehensive biographic intelligence is the National Intelligence Survey (NIS). Since the production of the first collection in January 1950 on Egypt, over [] biographic sketches have been produced, covering key people in []. For about six years these reports covered political personalities only and were published as Section 89 of the NIS. After that the coverage was broadened to include top personalities in science, industry, cultural fields, and the armed forces. Production of Section 89 was discontinued in 1955. The new publication was titled "Key Personalities" and included contributions from five different agencies coordinated by the Department of State. In mid-1961 responsibility for production of "Key Personalities" was transferred from State to BR/OCN (as part of the transfer of State's entire responsibility for producing biographic intelligence). Responsibility for coordinating the production of KP remained in OBI.

3. For the 13 years since January 1950 the number of biographies produced per year averaged about []. During the last few years State augmented its production, aiming at [] biographies per year. State succeeded in producing 700 in FY 1960 and 700 in FY 1961. The number of biographies in each volume has varied considerably. Ten have 30 or less, whereas the U.S.S.R. and Communist China have [] and [] respectively. The arithmetical average number of sketches contained is 74, while the median is 44. Biographies varied in length from 1/2 to 3 manuscript pages.

25X1A
25X1B

25X1A

25X1A

GROUP 1

- 2 -

4. The Biographic Register (BR) now produces these biographic reports, expending an estimated 15% of its production effort in support thereof. The major portion of this effort is devoted to the preparation of the reports themselves, prefaces, glossaries and indexes. In addition, BR also produces lists of leading personalities for Chapter I (Brief) and short sketches for the various sections in Chapter VII (Scientific). Final decision regarding scheduling, length, and editing remains with OBI after consultation with BR. Presently scheduled and forecast coverage of "Key Personalities" includes seven loose-leaf publications to which the Pentagon services contribute. OBI collaborates in the selection of scientific personalities. The other publications, scheduled and forecast at the rate of about 16 per year, including revisions to the loose-leaf publications, are produced solely by BR/CCR.

DISCUSSION

5. Since the responsibility for the preparation of biographic intelligence--except for purely military figures--now rests solely in BR/CCR, there is less need for the role played by OBI as coordinator of interdepartmental efforts in the biographic field. It would thus appear timely to consider what advantages could result from a change making BR/CCR the responsible production office.

6. Three potential advantages are significant: (a) a decrease in the time lapse between the production of a biographic sketch and its availability as a printed report to an interested recipient (now regularly ranging from 6 to 12 months); (b) a greater facility in updating reports once issued; and (c) greater flexibility in scheduling BR production.

7. BR can commit itself to a level of production under a revised program at least equivalent to its present support to the NIS program.

8. In our view, a scheduled biographic publication program should be continued. The many government components, especially those overseas, have a continuing need for this type of information. Many cases arise where regularly scheduled production can serve to anticipate field requirements or provide an immediate BR response to such requirements. NIS requirements can be better met by selectively including brief biographies in related material as is now done in the Scientific Chapter and Section 55.

- 3 -

9. The dimensions of a revised biographic program should be determined by a study of the requirements to which such a program should be responsive. Thus, we should not at this time prescribe the program's scope and content. (Note: The study effort can moreover be carried out concurrently with the BR program to stimulate and guide biographic reporting by Foreign Service posts.)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

10. That no further "Key Personalities" sections be planned by NIS.

11. That BR assume responsibility for providing scheduled biographic reports to components of the Government previously relying on NIS. However, biographic coverage included in Chapter VII (Scientific) and such other BR inputs as for the Chapter I (General Surveys), shall continue to be responsive to NIS requirements.

12. That this proposal be referred to the NIS Committee for concurrence and forwarding for USIB consideration.

13. That, as a first step following USIB approval, BR conduct a study of requirements for this type of coverage to determine the dimensions of a responsive production program, which program BR shall then implement within its capabilities.

PAUL A. BORRI
Assistant Director
Central Reference

Attachment

NIS KP Production (by Date)

CONCURRENCE:

25X1A

[Redacted Signature]

Assistant Director for Basic Intelligence

- 4 -

APPROVAL:

25X1A

 

Ray S. Clibbe
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

20 Feb 63

INFORMATION:

Executive Secretary, USIB
USIB MIS Committee
USIB Committee on Documentation
Assistant for Coordination/O/DCI